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AUG 07 2006

In re Application

Inventor(s): James F. Zucherman, et al.

Appl. No.: 10/685,134

Confirm. No.: 4485

Filed: October 14, 2003

Title: TOOLS FOR IMPLANTING AN ARTIFICIAL
VERTEBRAL DISK AND METHOD

PATENT APPLICATION

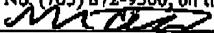
Art Unit: 3731

Examiner: Mary C. Hoffman

Atty. Docket No.: SFMTD-05009US1

Customer No. 23910

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Mathew Otis
Signature Date: 8/7/06

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This REPLY is in response to the final Office Action mailed April 5, 2006, in the above-captioned application. The Examiner is thanked for conducting an interview with the Applicant on Wednesday July 26, 2006 at 09:00AM, in which the Applicants concerns with the previous Office Action were discussed.

A Request for Continued Examination, a Petition for Extension of Time and a Fee Transmittal Sheet to cover the required fees accompany this reply.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

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Attorney Docket No.: SFMTD-05009US1 SRM/AGC
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